

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 061442Z AUG 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1754
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 6371

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PORG, ELAB, NO, JA
SUBJ: ILO: PRESIDENCY OF MARITIME CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 192093

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ, LINSENAYER AND QUACKENBUSH
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PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

1. DAVID BLANCHARD OF ILO SECRETARIAT CALLED TO INQUIRE OF U.S. REACTION TO WITHDRAWAL OF JAPANESE CANDIDACY AND SPECIFICALLY TO INQUIRE WHOM U.S. WOULD NOW SUPPORT. HE EXPRESSED REGRET AND DISMAY AT TSURUMI'S ILLNESS AND CAUTIOUSLY INDICATED THAT WE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO CONSULT WITH OUR WESTERN PARTNERS BUT THAT SUPPORT OF NORWEGIAN CANDIDATE SEEMED MOST PROBABLE. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AT INDICATION OF EVEN THIS PRELIMINARY POSITION.

2. WE ASKED HIM WHETHER HE KNEW OF ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH A WESTERN EUROPEAN CANDIDACY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT WESTERN EUROPEANS HAVE HELD OFFICE RECENTLY. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES EXCEPT FOR A RECENT CONVERSATION (PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TSURUMI'S WITHDRAWAL) WITH THE RUSSIANS. TO HIS SURPRISE THE RUSSIANS TOLD HIM THAT THEY SAW PROBLEMS WITH BOTH THE POLISH AND JAPANESE CANDIDACIES AND THAT THEY THOUGHT THE NORWEGIAN SHOULD BE SUPPORTED. THEIR PRICE FOR SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE THE ELECTION OF AN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT VICE PRESIDENT. BLANCHARD WAS FURTHER SURPRISED WHEN THEY TOLD HIM THIS VICE PRESIDENT NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE A POLE AND COULD, PERHAPS, BE A ROMANIAN. HE HAD NO EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RUSSIANS SEEMED TO HAVE DUMPED THEIR POLISH FRIENDS.

3. CONCLUSIONS: NOW THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE MADE THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT, THE ILO SECRETARIAT AND VARIOUS MISSIONS HERE ARE GOING TO WANT TO MOVE FAST TO TRY TO LINE UP ANOTHER CANDIDATE. WHILE IT MAY BE LOGICAL FOR THE JAPANESE AND WESTERN EUROPEANS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THIS, THEY WILL INEVITABLY TURN TO US AT SOME POINT. ON THE BASIS OF BLANCHARD'S REPORT, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BUTTON UP THE NORWEGIAN CANDIDACY FAIRLY QUICKLY. WE WOULD LIKE THE DEPT'S GUIDANCE ON THE DEGREE OF INITIATIVE WE SHOULD TAKE WITH OUR FRIENDS IN PUSHING HAREIDE AND ALSO AN EXPRESSION OF THE DEPT'S VIEWS ON AN EASTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY. CATTO

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